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HOUSE MEMORIAL 97

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Brian Egolf and Jim R. Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Luciano "Lucky" Varela was born on February 17, 1935 in Pecos; and

WHEREAS, Representative Varela graduated from Pecos high school, where he played basketball and baseball, and he received a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting from the college of Santa Fe and a law degree from LaSalle university; and

WHEREAS, Representative Varela began his public service career with the Santa Fe public school district; and

WHEREAS, prior to being elected to office, Representative Varela was the state comptroller and retired as the financial control director of the department of finance and

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1 administration; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1987, Representative Varela was elected to
3 represent house district 48 and continues that representation;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has been a key figure in
6 state budgets and finances throughout his thirty years in the
7 legislature; and

8 WHEREAS, former Governor Bill Richardson once said that
9 Representative Varela has forgotten more than most will ever
10 know about state finances; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has been the chair of the
12 legislative finance committee every other year for the last
13 fourteen years; and

14 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the legislative finance
15 committee, the state adopted performance-based budgeting
16 through the Accountability in Government Act; public school
17 funding and early childhood program funding were significantly
18 increased; and public pension reform measures were enacted to
19 ensure financial solvency; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is a staunch supporter of
21 state employees and an advocate for better schools and improved
22 health care, fighting for these causes throughout his three-
23 decade legislative career; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has been known throughout
25 his career as an advocate for children and the elderly and a

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1 supporter of equality for everyone; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is an astute politician who
3 expresses the utmost respect for his political mentors, such as
4 former Senators Edward J. Lopez, Fabian Chavez, Jr., and Ben D.
5 Altamirano and former Representatives Ben Lujan and Max Coll;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is recognized as a
8 facilitator rather than a dictator of public policy; and

9 WHEREAS, while Representative Varela is conciliatory in
10 his legislative work, he has always stood strong against fiscal
11 irresponsibility and government inefficiency; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Varela has stated that his major
13 personal accomplishment has been to raise a family, provide for
14 the family's well-being and provide a good future for his
15 grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, because of his long political career, many people
17 have fond memories from knowing or working with Representative
18 Varela; and

19 WHEREAS, while serving as the financial control director
20 of the department of finance and administration, Representative
21 Varela earned a reputation for throwing great Christmas parties
22 out of the walk-in safe in the financial control area; and

23 WHEREAS, this is Representative Varela's last term in the
24 legislature; and

25 WHEREAS, the loss of Representative Varela's institutional

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1 knowledge will be enormous; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Varela is the father of
3 Bernadette, Jeff and James and has eleven grandchildren and two
4 great-grandchildren; and

5 WHEREAS, always physically active, Representative Varela
6 enjoys spending time on his family's property in Pecos,
7 cultivating a large garden and baling hay; and

8 WHEREAS, the house of representatives is taking this
9 opportunity to express its gratitude to Representative Varela
10 for his dedication, expertise and compassion while serving in
11 the legislature; and

12 WHEREAS, while Representative Varela has been "Lucky" in
13 life, the residents of New Mexico have been lucky to have such
14 a fierce advocate representing them;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
17 Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela for his outstanding
18 service to the state of New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
20 transmitted to Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela.